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Two bunny thumbs up

Abbey Gardens greeted guests of Easter at the Gardens on Saturday, March 30. The day featured an Easter Egg hunt, cookie decorating, crafts, visits with ponies, photos with the Easter Bunny, and a scavenger hunt. See more photos on page 9. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

Fourcast Addiction Centre breaks the stigma

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Anybody in the catchment area of Fourcast's five offices including Lindsay, Minden, Campbellford, Cobourg, and Peterborough can attend counselling and receive services offered. All of their services are offered 1-on-1.

"All of our groups are face-to-face, so in person," says Tricia McCarthy, an addictions counsellor for 26 years. "That was different during COVID, everything was online, all virtual, but because COVID is now technically over, everything has gone back to face-to-face.

"The research tells us that face-to-face contact increases success rates for folks."

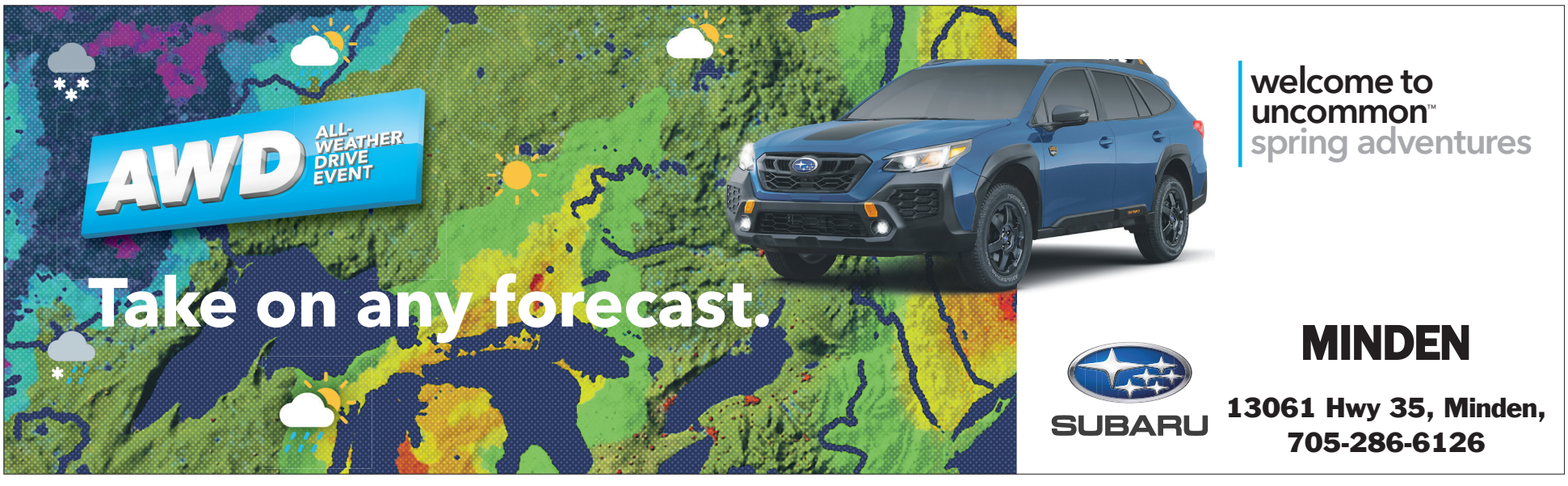
"There's always exceptions to that rule. We're always working to determine those barriers so that people can access services. Ideally, it's face-to-face."

Some of the services that are offered in Lindsay and Peterborough include auricular accupuncture. "It helps folks manage withdrawal symptoms and some folks find it helps them regulate their emotions," says McCarthy.

Fourcast also offers programs such as Getting Started and Weekend Planning. These groups assist participants with daily planning strategies and how to manage your weekend.

Other groups that require referrals from a counsellor include dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). DBT really focuses on making the connections between our emotions and our behaviours, whereas CBT helps people recognize triggers and how to manage them so they can make a change and maintain the change, says McCarthy.

see ACCESS page 2



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County, industry look to beef up skilled trades

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County will have a hand in local workforce development.

And they're going straight to the high school to do it.

Steve Ovell, economic development and tourism director, brought the idea of a skilled trades partnership to county council when it met March 27. It's based on a partnership that was undertaken by the county and community industry partners last spring.

Haliburton County partnered with the Haliburton County Homebuilders Association (HCHBA) in May 2023 to host the first skilled trades bus tour. Thirty students went to five locations within the county to highlight skilled trades job opportunities.

"We view it more as it's really a workforce development program," Ovell said. "It gets some access for our home builders to get into the classroom and further support them."

Locations included Sunbelt Rentals, Holden Truss Plant, a construction site at 75 per cent completion, a completed timber frame home, and a large landscaping site.

Employers at each site were provided an opportunity to address the students and discuss the employment options within their sector and the stability of the jobs. The program was well received and will be run again this spring.

The hope is that from good things will come greater endeavours.

The implementation of the day-long course generated further discussion regarding partnership opportunities in the future, particularly around creating more exposure of the skilled trades to the county's young people.

So the county, HCHBA, and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) began discussions last fall about such a partnership that will cover the fundamentals of framing and drywall installation as well as introduction to electrical work, including the basics of wiring switches and lights.

HCHBA members donated their time and materials to the HHSS skilled trades class as a method of connecting students to trades and apprenticeship opportunities. They had also engaged with math and co-op classes to discuss the importance of their curriculum to growth in the trades.

To help support the class and enhance its budget, the HCHBA donated more than $3,000 in materials to the class to help further develop its programming.

"They've graciously donated a lot of their staff time and some financial resources," Ovell said. "If we can help support them so that they're not paying out of pocket to further enhance the program, that's our role in this."

The county would provide financial support to HCHBA to allow them to purchase additional materials, tools, and safety equipment to help enhance the projects and program.

In return HCHBA members would continue to donate their time and HHSS would invite them into the classroom of 22 students to assist with the hands-on work.

Instruction includes safety training so students would be better prepared to start summer employment.

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, wondered if the school board would kick in some resources for the program.

"It seems we are funding, the home builders are giving a lot of volunteer time, what's the school board doing?" Carter said.

"School board obviously is funding the program through their budget," Ovell said. "The one number I couldn't get from them was the actual overall financial contribution that they put towards the class."

He said that one of the details that would be spelled out in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the county and the HCHBA. The MOU will formalize the partnership and outline the responsibilities and tracking procedures of each organization.

Should this partnership be a success, the program could expand into 2025.

Coun. Cecil Ryall, Highlands East's deputy mayor, said universities provide good educations, but more people in skilled trades is what's needed today. He wondered if more of the trades could be introduced at the high school level in the future.

"This is the first step in the process," Ovell said. "If we're successful, it could be something that could be maybe duplicated or replicated in other areas of the province."

"I think we need to do more of this sort of thing," said Coun. Murray Fearrey, the mayor of Dysart.

Access to help is only a call away

from page 1

"Anybody can call. There's no fee. The access is basically calling us," says McCarthy."

"Sometimes family members will call for a loved one and so under those circumstances we can certainly give them information," says McCarthy. "We typically want the individual who is coming, to talk to us. We want to make sure that they know who they are talking to, what we're all about and that they have an idea of wanting to figure something out for themselves."

"Although some folks may be mandated to come, our service is not mandated," says McCarthy.

Although many folks are required through their probations to attend counselling services, McCarthy assures that the services offered by Fourcast are not connected to the ministry or any form of probation.

"It's really about them. It's a collaborative process and sometimes we need to remind folks that we are separate from the services that may be telling them to come here," says McCarthy.

Fourcast's primary clientele in Minden seek services for alcohol and drug use, but gambling addiction counselling is also offered.

"Statistically speaking, substance abuse and mental health concerns went up over the pandemic. The isolation and the impact of the economics, just the fear around what was happening," says McCarthy.

Fourcast's Minden location primarily services residents of Haliburton County.

"Haliburton County is well known for transportation barriers. We're a very poor county, so leaving doesn't make sense for a lot of folks."

"One of the things that we try and work hard at is to try and use language that is not judgemental. Folks that are living with addictions of any kind feel extremely judged by the community, themselves, sometimes their loved ones, whoever they run into, it can be medical, it can be legal, it doesn't matter where it's coming from but the whole idea of folks that have substance abuse issues

"Alcoholic, addict, those terms, I know often are used to identify themselves as somebody who›s got a problem with a substance. I know that terminology is used for the AA programs and if that fits for people, great, but from our Fourcast perspective, we really work towards no judgement," says McCarthy.

"We'll use terms like problem use or dependency or addiction versus addict or alcoholic."

After contacting Fourcast, the counsellor will work with the client to set goals, talk about processes to engage, and then check in after several weeks to determine the client's progress.

"We will work with somebody for as long as they have an attainable goal that they are working towards," says McCarthy. "We can sometimes be weeks, months, years. It really is dependant on the person."

Fourcast shares its location with several other services, such as mental health services at their 5 IGA Road location in Minden. This location provides some anonymity to those wanting privacy.

"People don't want to be seen coming into Fourcast," says McCarthy. "They walk in the door, they could be going upstairs to go into the restaurant, or coming downstairs for mental health. For the most part, people won't know what's down here. The location of the office helps to create some of that privacy."

"Some people don't even know we're here, so they may be looking for services and they are googling where can I find addiction support in Haliburton County and then they'll call me and say I didn't even know you were here."

"Addictions can happen to anybody. There is no formula for who is going to become potentially addicted," says McCarthy. "For me, it keeps me grounded in terms of trying to stay out of judgement we often make when we use terms like 'they're just an addict' and those sorts of things."

"It is not a surprise when you find out somebody has a trauma history, that there has also been a substance use problem as well because they are hurting, they don't know what to do with it. They discovered that drinking helps give them a break from that, so they are going to go back to that because it worked."

"That's what we all do with everything," says McCarthy.

"You often hear people go 'well, just stop'," says McCarthy. "It's not that easy. You have to look at why, what's feeding it, and create different loops."

Social drinking and recreational marijuana usage is often accepted due to the legality of the substances, whereas using substances such as heroin, fentanyl, meth, is perceived as a highly shameful act.

"The legality of it doesn't mean that it's not harmful, that it's not impacting you personally," says McCarthy. "Part of the work is to focus on you and to work on you. Whoever you hang out with, it is going to be your norm."

Identifying whether you have a substance use problem is a deeply personal recognition within yourself.

"What we do when people come in is we look at all the different life areas. Financial, emotional, relationship, legal, work, school, break your life up into those pockets and then assess whether or not your substance use impacts them in any way. It could be minor, moderate, or major. Sometimes other's people's perspective doesn't match your perspective."

"Really it's about assessing your life areas and the impacts that your substance use is having. Are you missing out on things? Are you avoiding things? Can you not afford it? What are your ultimate goals, can this get you there or will it stop you?"

Fourcast offers free addiction counselling at only a phone call away. There is no age requirement to access their services and groups, but an assessment for informed consent is required. When necessary, referrals can be made to other services such as youth mental health.

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New county-wide burning by-law takes effect

A new Open Air Burning Bylaw came into effect across the municipalities of Haliburton County on Monday, April 1. Jointly created by the County's four Chief Fire Officials and adopted by each of its lower-tier municipal councils, the new by-law establishes consistent burning regulations throughout the County and introduces some new provisions.

A major change introduced in the new by-law is the elimination of daytime burning during the fire season, which runs from April 1 to October 31 each year. Previously, daytime burn permits were available in order to set open air fires during this time period.

The 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive ever recorded in Canada, and the decision to eliminate daytime burning during the fire season was made with heightened public safety in mind. Contractors who may find it necessary to carry out daytime burning during this time period are asked to contact their local fire department in order to make arrangements.

Open air fires for cooking or warmth may be set between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and between the dates of April 1 and October 31, so long as they are small, confined and supervised at all times. According to the provisions of the by-law, such fires must be smaller than .6 metres in diameter; must be confined within a fire pit or appliance; must be completely extinguished when use is complete; and must comply with all other conditions of the by-law.

Please note that fires for cooking or warmth are *not* permitted during a fire ban. The Open Air Burning By-Law in its entirety can be viewed here.

For more information, please contact your local fire chief.

Submitted

ARC to launch new name at spring fundraiser

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Soon, Abbey Retreat Centre will no longer be ARC.

They're getting ready to reveal a brand new organizational name during a spring fundraising concert, No One Dances Alone, on Friday, April 12 at the Haliburton Legion featuring local bands Adverse Conditions and PriMates.

"The stats are that the number of cancer cases are going up because the screening is getting better, but it's also going up for other reasons. Treatment is getting better, too. What the Canadian Cancer Society says we need is care for the whole person, not just physical care but emotional care," said Barb Smith Morrison, ARC executive director. "Because of that, we knew it was time for a name change."

Cancer will soon be included in their name for identity and fundraising purposes.

And although ARC is located next to Abbey Gardens, Smith Morrison said brand differentiation from the two not-for-profit organizations is important.

"It's been a whole community project. Ninety nine names came in, and then we've had four small groups to narrow them down, working with themes and other parameters," she said.

Then, they sent out surveys with a smaller list of names to past retreat participants with the rationale for each to receive feedback from those that have experienced ARC's work first-hand.

"It's amazing that our whole community is arriving at the name, which is reflective of who we are and how we are."

The ARC board will be deciding between two final names on April 8 before the announcement at the concert the same week.

"We've had the same name since we came to be in 2016. We're so excited for a name that forms perfectly to our identity," Smith Morrison said.

Abbey Retreat Centre executive director Barb Smith-Morrison and Eliza peek through ribbons during last year's Haliburton Highlands Challenge kickoff. /FILE

Carrying on with using names significant to ARC, No One Dances Alone became the name of the fundraiser from the slogan for their biggest fundraiser of the year.

"The Haliburton Highlands Challenge slogan is 'No one walks alone.' These bands are known to get people dancing, so we just thought it was perfect when a community member gave us the idea."

SIRCH Bistro will be providing chilli dinner, and the Legion's bar will be open.

Tickets are $30 per person, and there will be a 50/50 draw.

"There will be a little bit of storytelling too so the community can get to know us a little better. We want people to know they have an amazing cancer support centre in the community."

ARC provides in-person retreats and online programs free of cost to those facing a cancer diagnosis and their caregivers.

"The purpose of our uniquely designed retreats and online programs is to transport people living with cancer and their support person out of their day-to-day lives to rest, create, connect with others living similar experiences, and explore life enhancing practices and tools for their mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

We serve people who are newly diagnosed, choosing treatment or not, navigating life post cancer, living with advanced stage cancer, caregiving or facing end-of-life," says the ARC website.

Smith Morrison said they serve people across Canada, but local residents are prioritized.

"If you sign up and are a permanent or seasonal resident, you go to the top of the list for a retreat."

ARC is self-funded, so fundraising efforts and generous donations are what allow them to provide these healing experiences at no cost to participants.

"If I could emphasize anything, it's the huge joy of being part of an organization that's so community-oriented and collaborative," Smith Morrison said.

Eighty people got moving across the country for the Haliburton Highlands Challenge last year to fundraise for ARC.

The fifth-annual Haliburton Highlands Challenge will kick off in July.

Participants are asked to form a team and have family and friends to donate while the team gets moving, whether it be biking, running, walking, swimming, yoga, from July to September.

For tickets to No One Dances Alone, visit abbeyretreatcentre.ca/calendar/no-one-dances-alone-fundraising-concert-for-cancer-support or call ARC at 705-754-2966.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **April 11** – Regular Council Meeting
- **April 25** – Regular Council Meeting
- **May 9** – Regular Council Meeting
- **May 30** – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

FIRE SEASON

Fire Season starts April 1 and ends October 31 in any given year. There is no daytime burning permitted. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Daytime Burning).

MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Connection and Response, an exhibit by artist Bruce Cull will be on display from April 4 – June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The Opening Reception with the artist takes place on Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 1-3 pm at the Gallery. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull
- The Knitting Village provides free knitting lessons for children ages 11-14. Upcoming classes will be held on April 9 and 16 from 3:30-4:30 pm at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road. All materials are supplied.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are currently seeking an energetic and highly motivated individual for the following position:

- Chief Building Official

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EARTH DAY

Join the Township in celebrating Earth Day on April 22 and all month long. This year, the Earth Day theme is leg day. The best thing you can do for the planet and yourself is skip the car, not leg day. Join the challenge at earthday.ca/legday for your chance to win some prizes.

In support of Earth Day, the Township would like to give one lucky Minden Hills resident a new FoodCycler unit! Send us a picture of an eco-friendly initiative within Minden Hills such as a roadside clean up, and your name will be entered into a draw to win a FoodCycler unit. Include the location details of your eco-friendly initiative. Photos can be emailed to ccosh@mindenhills.ca. Deadline to submit your photos is April 30, 2024.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

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Habitat for Humanity hopes to build in County

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Habitat for Humanity wants to make a home in Haliburton County.

That is, Susan Zambonin told council when it met March 27, that Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region (HHPK) wants to build homes in the county.

"We have not to date," said Zambonin, the group's CEO. "We've built in all the other areas of our service area."

Haliburton County staff are reviewing plans that could see as many as 60 housing units constructed, she said. And they've had a preliminary presentation about builds in Algonquin Highlands.

HHPK doesn't provide social, rental, or market housing. Rather, the organization helps individuals and families get affordable housing.

They saw the completion of a 41-unit condominium complex in April 2022 in Peterborough. That project doubled the number of families it served in its 20 years of existence, she said.

That was a $15-million project they were able to build for $10.6-million because of community partners.

"We see this as our future," Zambonin said.

She said it's difficult to find the land to accommodate the construction of single family homes.

"When you do, the cost is really prohibitive," she said. "There's such a great need, we need to serve more families."

As a result, Zambonin said HHPK will take the time necessary to work with municipalities to have land rezoned for high density projects.

"And we'll figure out a way to come up with the money to pay for it," she said.

Many people believe Habitat for Humanity gives away housing for free. That's a misconception that needs to be dispelled, she said. But they found a way to finance their builds.

The classic model was a no down payment, no interest mortgage held by Habitat with the construction financed by donations and previous homeowner payments. But it has become harder to finance properties as they build more homes amidst escalating interest rates and construction costs.

To alleviate that, the financial partner mortgage model was devised. That Kawartha Credit Union will provide a first mortgage for what the homeowner qualifies.

"We used to say that homeowners for Habitat didn't qualify for a conventional mortgage," she said. "But that's not really true."

Most people can qualify for some kind of a mortgage. What they can't get is a mortgage that'll enable them to buy in the current market. And then there's the down payment that becomes another obstacle.

"Our model takes that into consideration," Zambonin said.

If somebody can get a $250,000 mortgage but the house costs $400,000, HHPK will hold a second mortgage to cover the difference. And the homeowner only pays on the first mortgage to the credit union, she said.

That maintains the payments for the homeowner at 30 per cent of their income.

"Which means it's affordable to them, but they don't pay that second mortgage until they've either paid off their first mortgage or they sell their home and then they pay us back," she said.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, applauded HHPK's innovative approach to providing housing.

Councillor Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, echoed Danielsen.

"You're targeting the right area of people and, in my view, these are the people that really need it," Fearrey said. "They work, they're contributing to the community. It's a win-win."

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, who is the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, asked how Habitat manages to keep the houses lower than market value over many owners.

Zambonin said it's in the deed and the mortgage that Habitat has the right of first refusal to buy back the house.

"We almost always buy it back," Zambonin said.

Then Habitat finds another family and sells it to them with the same initial conditions.

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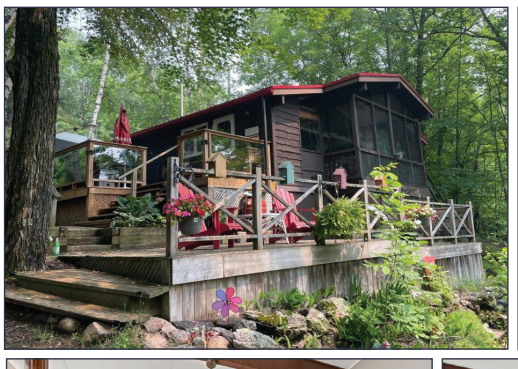
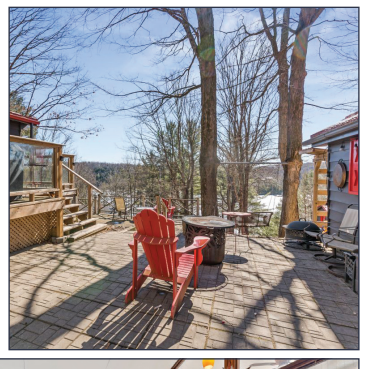
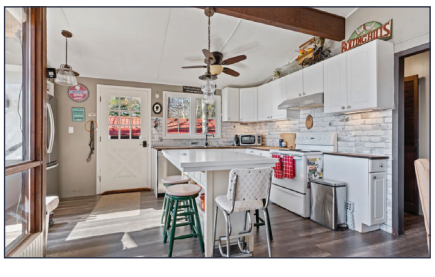

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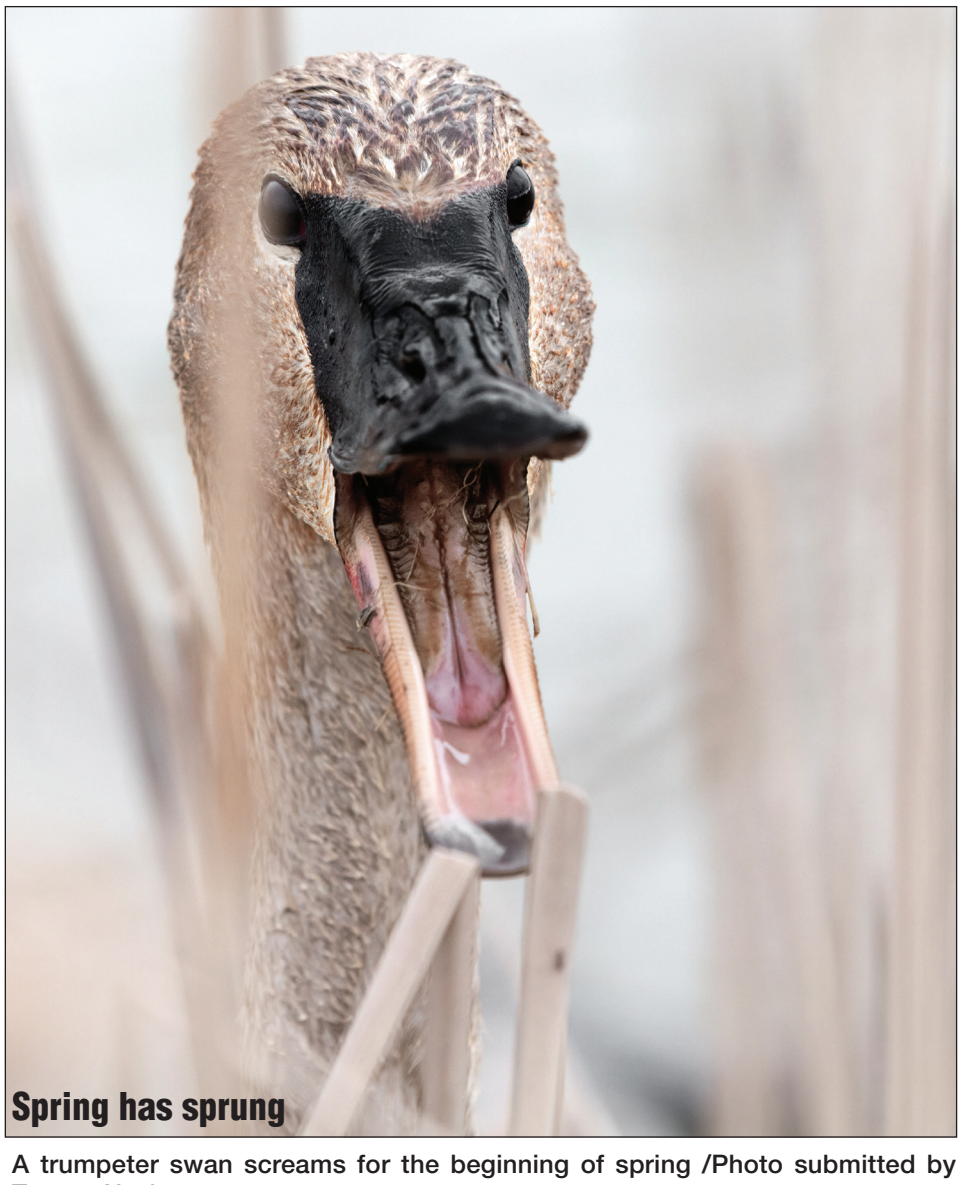

Spring has sprung

A trumpeter swan screams for the beginning of spring /Photo submitted by Tammy Nash

Wild game dinner a huge success, says HHOA president

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Volunteers serve up a variety of meats at HHOA's Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, March 23 at the Haliburton Legion. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

"The wild game dinner was another big success," says Dan Smith, president of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA). "Everybody had a great time, had plenty of great food to eat, and the silent auction was a success."

While the HHOA is still awaiting the final number of funds raised, Smith says that it will be over the $10,000 mark.

While Smith considers last year's wild game dinner a success, Smith estimates that this year's dinner raised around $4,000 more than 2023.

"All the businesses and private citizens, donations of wild game by hunters, and volunteers of the HHOA and the Legion. Everything came together. I can't emphasize just how positive of an experience it was," says Smith.

"By the time I ate at 8:30, it was gone," says Smith with a laugh. "It was really really well prepared."

Smith says the success of the wild game dinner heavily relied on Dan Johnson's experience and expertise.

"He's been doing it for well over 20 years," says Smith.

Smith sends his gratitude to Johnson and his wife Laurie for their help and culinary mastery of wild game.

"You can't keep up with them," says Smith with a laugh.

"It was so good," says Smith. "I didn't get any of the arctic char, but my wife and I prepared it."

The HHOA has big plans for this year. The HHOA's annual walleye watch will begin soon at the Drag River near Emmerson Lumber in Haliburton. Typically, the walleye watch begins at the start of April and runs to around April 20.

"The way the ice is going off the lakes, it might be sooner than that," says Smith.

To conduct the walleye watch, HHOA members and volunteers use high powered flashlights to reflect light off the walleye's eyes. Often, over 200 walleyes are counted each night. The Drag River is one of the most important walleye spawning sites in the county.

In collaboration with the MNRF, the HHOA uses the data collected to compare to the previous year's walleye population and to see where spawning sites are needed.

In the future, the HHOA hopes to raise walleye at their hatchery, says Smith.

"The survival rate of our hatchery is really good compared to natural spawning," says Smith.

Smith says that in the wild, only 1 in 1000 fish survive to adulthood. Eggs raised at the hatchery have a 60 to 70 per cent survival rate.

The HHOA has people checking the water conditions of the Drag River, as walleye require specific water conditions to spawn.

"They need enough water to cover their spawning shoals for them to breed," says Smith.

In late April to early May, the HHOA will be releasing around 30,000 fingerlings into surrounding water bodies. These fingerlings include rainbow trout and lake trout, including the lake trout strain Haliburton Gold.

The fish that will be released this year were collected in Oct. of 2022, with the hatchery raising the fish for 18 months.

In June, the HHOA is looking forward to attending the Haliburton Home & Cottage Show.

In July, the HHOA will be resurrecting their Family Fun Day at the Hatchery. This event will offer tours of the facility, have games for kids, and a fishing pond.

"We always encourage new members and volunteers at the HHOA," says Smith. "For members, it's a good way to stay healthy."

"It is a big building that needs maintenance. There is always something to do. Volunteers can stay as busy as they want to be. You do what you can, when you can."

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InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The Times

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Decriminalize possession and use of substances

EVERYONE HAS their vices, one way or another. Some people exclusively drink soda and have not had a glass of water in years. Some people eat a bowl of ice cream for dessert every night. Some people drink a glass of wine with dinner. Some people smoke cigarettes every hour, while others smoke a joint after work. Some drink to help them forget terrible things that happen to them. Some people use substances like heroin, meth, and fentanyl to get themselves through the day. In my conversation with Tricia McCarthy, an addictions counsellor for 26 years, it was made clear to me that every single person has something that they do or consume to use as an emotional support.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

Comfort food is something that everyone is familiar with. A food that you enjoy that has a connection to you either through nostalgia, or simply having an emotional connection to it. Comfort food makes us feel better emotionally, but is often food with high caloric values. When you read the term comfort food, you think chicken soup, or cookies, or even a poutine. Some people include a beer or cocktail in with their comfort food, or perhaps they refer to them as a guilty pleasure.

There is a clear distinction of social acceptability for people when it comes to eating a tray of cookies versus someone using a substance such as heroin. To begin to understand the issue, it is important to understand the basic human need to not feel pain and to seek comfort. CBC reported record numbers of deaths from alcohol and drugs during the pandemic. It is clear that in times of hardship, more people will use substances to cope.

The lines of social acceptability can quickly become blurred. Excessive drinking is often celebrated on occasions such as holidays, whereas someone using heroin to cope with intense pain is deemed as lesser and referred to using terms like 'junkie' and 'addict'.

Would everyone start using harder substances if they were legalized? Absolutely not.

Would it save people's lives? Absolutely.

In countries that have decriminalized drug use and incorporated harm reduction programmes such as the Netherlands, Portugal, and Switzerland, HIV prevalence and transmissions has dropped sharply, according to The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

One of the biggest hurdles people with substance use problems face is seeking support due to the shame, stigmatization and dehumanization.

People with substance use problems fear that they will get into legal trouble by seeking help, or some fear that they will be socially branded with terms like alcoholic, stoner, and junkie.

A huge step towards lowering the death rates of those with substance use problems will be to decriminalize their use. It would remove a massive barrier for people who know that they need to seek help and will ultimately save lives.

Am I saying that I want to see people openly use substances in the streets where kids can see? No. I am realistic in knowing that there are people in my community that are going to use substances. A substance use issue is not always something that is visible externally. Anyone could be struggling with a substance issue, even your neighbour, and you may not know it.

Legal or not, people are going to use substances to cope. They always have and always will.

Currently, our society is forcing people to use substances alone and die alone. People that are scared to seek care will die amidst the opioid crisis that Ontario is currently facing. Decriminalization possession and the use of substances will save lives.

Hide and seek

FOR THE hunter, spring is a busy time. Wild turkey season opens on April 25th. The spring bear hunt begins on May 1st.

The common thread that connects both activities is camouflage. Turkey hunters generally wear it from head to toe. Bear hunters are allowed to wear it while sitting in the stand.

That means in every household where hunters live right now, people are panicking to find their camouflage clothing and accessories.

You might think that this should not present a challenge.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

And you'd be right if the hunter placed these items in a bin or hung it in a closet on hangers designated for such things.

Finding these items gets considerably more difficult, however, if there is even one potted plant in the room – or, God forbid, floral wallpaper. That's because modern camouflage is so good that this is all it takes for it to blend right in.

It was not always this way, however.

When I started hunting, almost 50 years ago, camouflage consisted of not moving and remaining silent. If you wanted to get really fancy, you did this while standing amidst shrubbery.

During the second year I hunted, my friends and I decided to take it even more seriously. This meant each of us purchased an olive-green hydro parka and wore our dirtiest blue jeans while out in the field. If you were really concerned about not being seen – or just like any other boy of that era – you did not wash your face in the month or two prior to hunting season. This seemed to work fine too. For when our game animals showed themselves, very few could see where that awful smell was coming from.

Since those days, camouflage has continually improved with every hunting season. It has gotten so good, that I have not been able to locate it in the sporting good stores I go to for the last three years.

What's even worse is that modern firearms and bows now come well camouflaged too. And this has proven highly entertaining. I don't know many hunters who have not sat back and laughed while a hunting buddy tried to find a firearm or bow they set down in the woods.

This golden era of camouflage is not without its pitfalls though. I once lost a hunting buddy for an entire season. The only reason why I found him again was because the hunting regulations said we needed to wear hunter orange in the rifle season for deer.

I guess my major complaint is that camouflage has got so specialized that it is hard to choose the appropriate type. There are camouflages for woods and woodlands, fields, and deserts, marshes and bottomlands, hardwoods and evergreens, winter, fall, and spring. Some of it is made to blend in with certain types of trees too – like oak, spruce, maple and pines.

Who knows where it is going to go from here? I would not be surprised if the next step will be to make a camo pattern that also depicts ripe fruit such as apples. Or has a sap bucket attachment or a no trespassing sign.

This will mean the choosing the right camo pattern is just going to get even more difficult. But I suppose that is the point.

After all, good camouflage ought to be hard to find.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Ins and outs of ice

MANY OF us got fooled with ice out predictions this year. The mild, almost non-existent winter, had many predicting ice off the lakes in March. There just wasn't enough really cold weather to make typical winter ice, so predictions of a really early boating season didn't hold up.

Now here we are in the first week of April with ice still covering some lakes and beginning to break up on others. Ice out on most Haliburton lakes typically is mid-to-late April, sometimes early May. But that's changing and it's going to change more.

Studies show that ice duration times across North America have decreased over the 19th and 20th centuries. Ice cover on the Great Lakes reached historic lows this past winter.

JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

Maximum ice coverage on the Great Lakes usually occurs in late February or early March and on average it covers roughly 53 per cent of the open water. On Feb. 11 this year, Great Lakes' ice coverage was measured at only 2.7 per cent.

In the Haliburton and surrounding regions, ice forming later and leaving earlier has resulted in 4.4 fewer days of ice coverage over 10 years.

There are indications that the number of lake ice days will decrease even more. One report predicts that fall freeze-up could occur five to 15 days later by mid-century. It also says that spring breakup could occur 10 to 25 days earlier than now.

It's all being blamed on global warming. The last 10 months have seen record world heat and 2023 has been confirmed as the warmest calendar year in global temperature data records going back to 1850.

Fewer days of winter ice leave lakes open longer to absorb sunlight faster, warm up sooner and stay warmer longer. Temperature changes can affect plankton and other organisms, causing some to die.

Lake trout and whitefish feed on plankton, so less of it could cause fish populations to shrink. That could lead to tighter fishing quotas and even higher prices for fish at grocery stores.

Other significant changes could result from having less winter lake ice. Lakes wide open longer will result in more evaporation, which could help create weather changes, including more storms.

More storms over open water also could result in increased shoreline damage.

There is not much solid evidence of what fewer winter ice days could do to our world. Just a lot of theories.

Certainly, we saw how poor ice conditions hurt the economy this past winter. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing were almost non-existent this past winter. The money these activities bring to local businesses was reduced dramatically.

Other effects, some a bit bizarre, are starting to show. One unusual one involves the mystery of wolves on Isle Royale in Lake Superior.

Researchers have been studying the relationship between Isle Royale wolves and moose since 1958.

The study relies on the use of small aircraft to ferry researchers to and from the island. The planes land on lake ice that usually surrounds the island. This year there was not enough safe ice for landing and the study was suspended.

There has not been much study of winter ice trends on inland lakes. But certainly, much more will be needed if researchers are correct in predicting a continuing decline in lake ice days.

Fewer lake ice days mean more warming, which brings changing weather, different animal migration and plant flowering patterns. It also means that pathogens that have not been able to survive our winter cold could start moving north, carrying diseases not commonly seen here in the past.

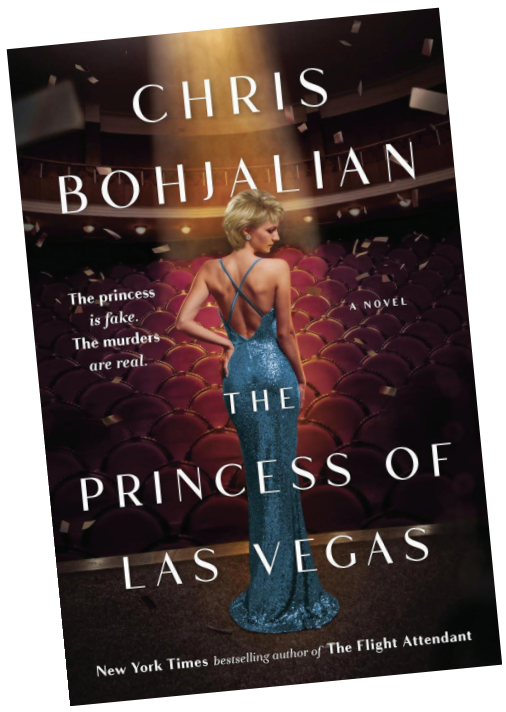
All of us will have to start thinking about how to live with these changing conditions.

As Angelica Ingram, Haliburton County tourism manager was quoted as saying in late January:

"This year, so many businesses and organizations have had to pivot. They thought outside the box for the past month about how they can still offer experiences in the county without snow, And, at the tourism department, we're making similar plans for the coming years, should we continue to see less snow and late ice freezing."

Minden Memories

The Orange Lodge gathering at Minden Fair Grounds /Photo courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre



HCPL's Book of the Week

Crissy Dowling has created a world that suits her perfectly. She passes her days by the pool in a private cabana, and each evening she transforms into Princess Diana to perform a musical cabaret. Some might find her strange or even delusional; her entire career rests on resembling a dead woman. And yet, fans see her for the gifted chameleon she is, showering her with gifts, letters, and standing ovations night after night. But when Crissy's sister, Betsy, arrives in town with a new boyfriend and a teenage daughter, and when Richie Morley, the owner of the Buckingham Palace Casino, is savagely murdered, Crissy's carefully constructed kingdom comes crashing down all around her.

The Princess of Las Vegas by Chris Bohjalian is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Anyone can get scammed, even me

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
Humans and Technology

IT'S A sinking feeling when you realize your information has been stolen. In 2009, after moving to another town for university, I took a couple of friends who had helped lug my stuff into my new digs out to lunch as a thank you. This was before portable credit card terminals and chip and PIN became ubiquitous in Canada, and it was still customary to hand over your credit card to the server for processing. I remember waiting around for what seemed like longer than normal to get my card and the receipt back, but then once they were in my hand thought nothing of it.

A few days later, I went online and purchased an electronic textbook directly from the publisher's website. This was a fairly new option at the time, and while e-books were a mere 3-5% of book sales in 2009, publishers were rushing to take advantage of a fast-growing format. I dutifully input my credit card number into the rudimentary e-commerce portal provided by what was (and still is) a well-established large publishing company, so that I could access the learning material I needed.

Maybe another day or so later I attempted to use my credit card again, and it was declined. Weird, I thought. Had I missed a payment and hadn't realized in the confusion of moving and starting school? Had my card been flagged because I had made a number of purchases in a new town without notifying my bank? I went back to my rented room, still cluttered and in a state of mid-unpacking, and logged into my online banking. There, I was greeted with a small charge from a hardware store in Ireland (I wasn't in Ireland), and a much larger charge from an online casino (I wasn't in a casino). My credit card information had been stolen.

I can't say for sure at what point my information was stolen. The moments that stand out to me are that long wait at the restaurant and the e-commerce portal for the textbook. But it could easily have been any number of times where I had entrusted that piece of plastic with embossed numbers and magnetic strip to a stranger. Regardless, it meant that in the midst of student loan processing, textbook buying, unpacking, figuring out busses, schedules, and all the things that come with going to university, I was also on the phone with the fraud department of the credit card company. And that reliable method of payment – a stop gap until my student loan installment was deposited – was now frozen. A violation and inconvenience that added unwelcome stress to an already stressful time.

Anyone can get scammed, even me. Looking back, I can see what a different time it was, and how it would be harder, though not impossible, for the same thing to happen to me today. Today, a credit card almost never leaves our hand when making a transaction. Today, the HTTPS protocol, which encrypts data as it travels from your device to a website, is now the norm rather than the exception. Today, we have more options available to us to keep our data safer in the very online world we live in.

An important modern security option you should know about is multifactor authentication (MFA). MFA (also referred to as two factor authentication or 2FA) is a process that requires the presentation of two pieces of evidence to prove that you are you. With most online services you or I would access, the first piece of evidence is your password, and the second piece of evidence is an alphanumeric code (often 6-digits) either texted to your mobile phone or, even better because phone numbers can be compromised, generated from an app.

Having MFA enabled means that even if a thief figures out your password, they still can't get into your private accounts such as your email, banking, or Facebook account unless they have access to your device that is generating or receiving that code. MFA doesn't replace the need for a strong password (15 characters including numbers and special characters, please!), but it does add an extra layer of protection. According to GetCyberSafe.ca, MFA can protect you from 100% of automated bots, 96% of phishing attacks, and 76% of targeted attacks.

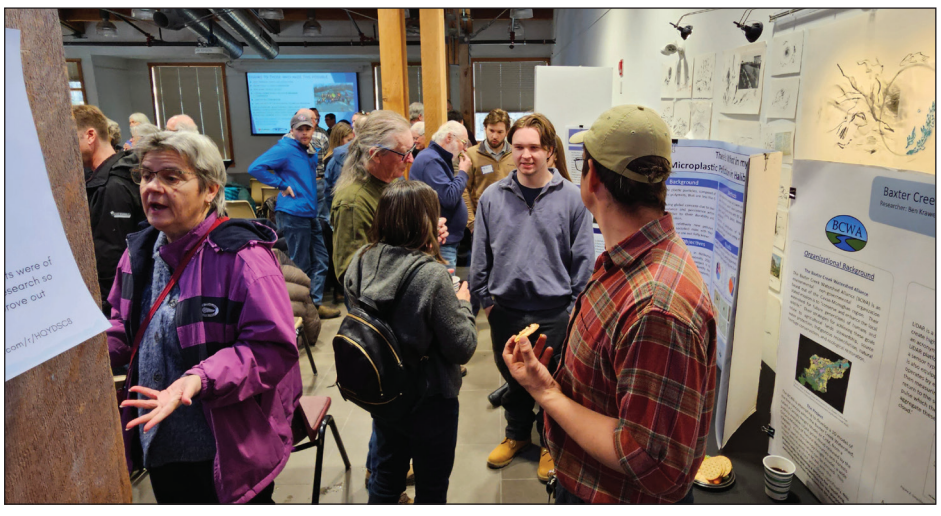
Today, I have MFA enabled on anything I can enable it on because I appreciate the peace of mind that comes with that extra layer of security. Especially having had my own data stolen during a time when many of our modern security measures weren't widely adopted yet. We often balk at adding additional steps to our already full days, or changing what we do to make our data safer. However, from experience, I can say an ounce of prevention is a pound of cure.

Minds on research

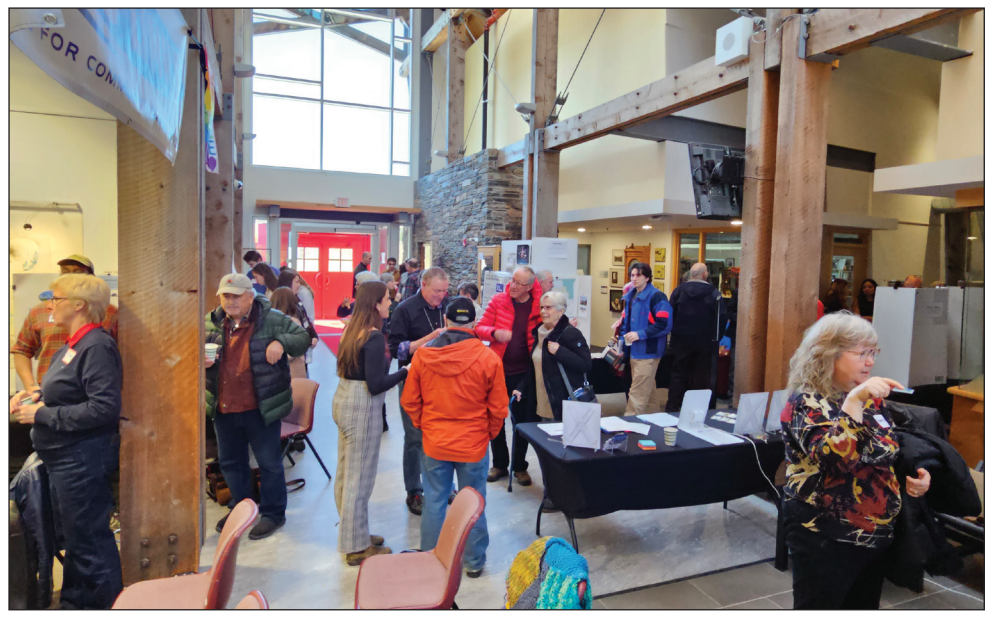
Carmen Galea presented Long Forgotten Fruits: A Historical Context and Preliminary Inventory of Apple Trees in Haliburton County at the U-Links Celebration of Research Event on Saturday March 23. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Significance of Study:
Addressing local food insecurity
Haliburton is arguably located in a rural food desert
Community bonding and empowerment
Creating a sustainable food system
LEMING

From left, Carmen Galea, Luba Cargill, and Wesley Ford represented the Apple Tree Identification Project on Saturday March 23 at the U-Links Celebration of Research, hosted at the Haliburton School of Art + Design.



Students were very excited to discuss their projects that are associated with the U-Links Centre for Community Based Research at the Celebration of Research.



Easter is in the air at Abbey Gardens

Abbey Gardens' resident horses and ponies greeted guests of Easter at the Gardens on Saturday, March 30. The day featured an Easter Egg hunt, cookie decorating, crafts, visits with ponies, photos with the Easter Bunny, and a scavenger hunt. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

Local young artist awarded Best in Show

Annabelle Borgdorff with her work The Things We Miss, which was awarded the Best In Show award at the Under 19 student exhibition at the Bancroft Art Gallery. The Jurors described Annabelle's work as having "very unusual and insightful conceptual elements." "Beautiful use of paint and ink show the artist's proficiency in their chosen medium." /Submitted by Karen Gervais

Hal High student Hailiee Embury received second-place in the Painting and Mixed Media category as well as the Creativity and Concept award for her playful acrylic painting, right, How It Actually Happened.

Ceinwyn Mathura's work Inspiration From The Heart won first place in the Painting and Mixed Media category. The Jurors described the work as "well conceived with various mixed materials and painted pieces bringing wonderful colour and movement. Juxtaposed elements are creatively thought out providing dramatic impact and visual interest."

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School artists Emma Bush, Alivia Brown and Annabelle Borgdorff at the opening reception of the Art Gallery of Bancroft's Under 19 exhibition on Friday, March 15. Brown's watercolour painting of The Reid House is featured in the centre of the photograph.

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Highland Storm U18 Reps become gold medal champions

This past weekend the U18 Rep Tom Prentice and Sons team attended the 2024 OMHA Championships in Halton Hills. The road to Red Hats was set to be a tough one as they were competing against teams from all across Ontario.

Storm played their first game on Friday against the Wallaceburg Lakers and they found themselves down 3-1 late in the second period. Storm made a remarkable comeback and went on to score 5 unanswered goals leading to a 6-3 win. The win showcased the teams depth as everyone contributed throughout the game. Brechin Johnston, Alex Hendry, Cooper Coles, Ethan Megrah Poppe and Nathan Morrison all found the back of the net.

On Saturday they faced off against the Belle River Jr Canadians. Down by a goal heading into the second, Storm began capitalizing on the power play and started the third period with a 3-2 lead. With just under seven minutes left in the third, Aiden Perrott scored his second of the game increasing the lead to 4-2. Cooper Coles then added another goal which completed his hat trick, followed with a late goal by Alex Hendry giving Storm a 6-2 victory and securing their spot in the semi final game on Sunday.

Later that day, Storm played their final round-robin game against Norwood Hornets and suffered their first loss of the weekend losing 4-1.

The semi-final game was set with Storm taking on Port Colborne, a very respected team who had placed first in their group. Port Colborne took an early one goal lead but Storm responded quickly as Beckham Reynolds tied the game. Storm showcased their resilience as the game went back and fourth. Brechin Johnston displayed an incredible performance scoring 4 goals. The game came down to the final seconds but Storm was able to hang on and win 5-4 sending them to the championship game.

In the finals Storm would again meet up with Norwood. It was an evenly matched, fast paced game where Storm displayed great defence, offence and goaltending. Aiden Perrott opened the scoring in the first period and Brechin Johnston followed up with a short handed goal giving Storm a two goal lead heading into the second period. Norwood capitalized on the power play mid way through the second cutting the lead to one. However, Storm continued to hold onto the lead by working as a team on defence and getting help from their goaltender Ethan Dobson. With five minutes and 15 seconds left in the third period, Beckham Reynolds scored giving Storm a two goal lead. Norwood would respond with a goal of their own resulting in a tense final minute, but Storm would not backdown and in the end were victorious with the final score being 3-2.

Building team chemistry was one of the main goals for us this season. That's generally something all championship teams have in common. Knowing we can trust each other really made a difference, especially in the big games. It was a great season all around. Congrats on being OMHA Champions!

Submitted by Amber Lee Cully

Community events sponsored by

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A Murder Is Announced
When: April 3-6, various times
Where: Northern Lights Pavilion, 5358 Haliburton County Rd 21
Takes place Apr. 3, 4, 5 at 7:30 p.m.at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the High School in Haliburton, and Apr. 6 at 2 p.m. Presented by Highlands Little Theatre. Tickets available at Up River Trading, Minden & nly intimation.

Pancake Breakfast
When: Apr. 6, 8 a.m. to 12 noon
Where: Highland Grove Community Centre
Come join us for a pancake breakfast. Includes pancakes, sausages, bacon, toast, eggs, coffee, and local maple syrup. $12 per adult, $8 per child, and children younger than five are free. Proceeds will benefit St John Vianney and mission churches.

Repair Cafe
When: Apr. 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: SIRCH Bistro, 49 Maple Ave. Haliburton
Bring your broken items to the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery and our volunteers will fix them for you. Don't forget to bring the kids along to enjoy the Tinker Table. Small appliances, ceramics, toys, furniture, jewellery, textiles, computers, wooden furniture, bicycles and more. Repair Café will take place the first Sunday of every month until December. For more info call 705-457-1742. Contact Steve Dewey at sdewey@algonquinhighlands.ca

CARP Fraud Seminar
When: April 17, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George Street
Please join us for a fraud seminar, being hosted by CARP Chapter 54, featuring OPP Officer Hilary Newman. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about common scams, how to recognize them and steps to take if you've fallen victim to fraud. This seminar will be an informative event empowering the community against scams. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

Stanhope and Community Fly-In to Spring
When: May 4, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: 1168 Stanhope Airport Rd, Algonquin Highlands
Bring the entire family to the 2024 Fly-In to Spring event! See antique and classic aircraft, enjoy a variety of food and drinks, and see model aeroplanes, firetrucks and MNR displays. Aeroplane and helicopter rides available. For more information contact Steve Dewey at sdewey@algonquinhighlands.ca

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Dive into fundraising with Jump in the Lake Challenge

Minden Community Food Centre and Central Food Network are set to kick off the swimming season with the return of the annual Jump in the Lake Challenge. Set to take place on Saturday, May 4th at 2:00 pm, this breath-taking fundraiser promises to make a splash while supporting two great charities.

Unlike a typical polar plunge, Jump in the Lake challenges participants to take a dip from wherever they choose – their own docks, a public beach, or heck – even a cold plunge tub!

Food bank usage is up over 30% in the last two years as more families and individuals struggle to keep up with rising costs. Last year's event raised over $6,000 between the two organizations thanks to the incredible generosity of participants and donors. The aim is to surpass that total and make an even bigger splash this year.

"With our shared commitment to serving our communities, we're thrilled to be part of this challenge with our friends at Minden Community Food Centre," says Tina Jackson, Executive Director of Central Food Network. "Together, we're showcasing the strength of collaboration and compassion, showing that when people and communities come together, amazing things happen!" In a battle of camaraderie and goodwill, Minden Community Food Center and Central Food Network are competing to see which charity brings in the most funds, the most participants and the highest spirits.

"The stakes are high," says Jean Munroe, Manager of Minden Community Food Centre. "Whoever falls short of their goals will be jumping in the lake with a rubber duck floatie. Win or lose, it's all in good fun, and at the end of the day, it's the community that comes out on top."

Safety is a top priority, with organizers reminding participants to know and respect their limits, never enter the water alone, and always wear a life jacket. And for those who prefer to stay dry but still want to show their support, sponsoring a participant is a fantastic way to contribute to the cause.

So, mark your calendars, gather your friends and family, and get ready to make a splash for a cause at the 2024 Jump in the Lake Challenge.

For more information or to register for the event, visit Minden Community Food Centre's donation page at https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/minden-food-bank/p2p/jump24Central Food Network's donation page at https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/central-food-network/p2p/jump24/, contact Minden Community Food Centre at (705) 286-6838 or CFN at (705) 448-9711.

Submitted

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		7				4		
5							2	6
			1	8				
8			5		2			
2	7			3	6		1	
	3		9					8
	2		7			1	6	
					9			
	6			5				

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14

GOT A NEWS TIP?
Let us know about it!

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FoRT seeks Dysart support for bike hub grant application

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Friends of the Rail Trail are looking to create a bike hub at the caboose in Haliburton at Head Lake Park. /FILE

The Friends of the Rail Trail group has an innovative idea for the repurposing of an underutilized community asset.

Pamela Marsales, chairperson of Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT), pitched the idea to Dysart council March 26 for a community bike hub at the municipally-owned caboose.

She said the proposed Caboose Community Bike Hub would bring an aspect of the region's heritage to life and encourage more people in Dysart and Haliburton Village to consider cycling.

While it would be a community-collaborative effort, Marsales asked that Dysart be the lead applicant for an Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant to launch a one-year pilot of the bike hub.

"Our caboose currently sits sad and forlorn in the village welcome centre parking area," she said. "This could be a one-year low risk trial to give it purpose."

Depending on the venture's success, this first step could lead to three-year Grow Grant from the foundation, she said.

"The project would raise heritage awareness," Marsales said. "And we have proponents in the community that are keen to kick start a paint the caboose campaign and bring it back to its glory."

A community bike hub is a place for cyclists to meet for skills workshops, guided rides, and children's programming.

"Kids can learn about bikes within a confidence-building social context," she said. "Children's bike skills learned young last a lifetime."

Adults would be able to benefit through building social connections based on a common interest and by staying active.

Marsales said it's hoped the project would encourage more in-town biking to carry out errands. That would reduce car traffic in town.

There are a number of local clubs, organizations, and groups on board to write letters of support for the grant application.

Mayor Murray Fearrey said he believes it's a great idea.

"Do you see any conflict with the kids riding bikes in the park when people are walking?" he said. "When they're learning to ride."

"There might be a little wobbling around, but a child on a bike three feet off the ground is not a great threat," Marsales said. "No, I don't see it being a conflict."

HHLT hosts Animal Tracks and Scat

by **RICK WHITTEKER**
Special to the Times

A cold, clear day and an overnight snowfall provided the perfect setting for an Animal Tracks and Scat for Children Discover Day workshop. Hosted by Abbey Gardens at the Gathering Place, this workshop is a Haliburton Highlands Land Trust educational offering geared to youngsters on March 23. Grandparents and parents accompanied their kids on this fun and engaging look at animal sign, especially tracks and scat.

The morning starting with a story featuring Finn, a girl, and her drowsy dog Skeeter, on their outdoor explorations. Their rambles lead them to a wide variety on animal tracks and their droppings, inadvertently collected on the bottom of Finn's boot! The book reading was proceeded by the sharing of the Scat Rap which goes like this:

It starts with an S.
And ends with a T.
It comes out of you and it comes out of me!
I know what you're thinking.
Don't be like that!
Be scientific and call it SCAT!

The book reading was followed by learning about the clues to being an animal track detective. The number of toes, the location, the behaviour and the gait were all explored. Demonstrating the four main movement patterns: pacers, diagonal walkers, bounders and gallopers presented a challenge to anyone who is not a contortionist, much to the delight of the workshop participants!

Track booklets were handed out soon after. Etching plates and rubberized track and scat samples were spread out over three tables. Crayon etchings of a variety of prints of the common wildlife of Haliburton County were completed in these take home booklets.

It soon was time to get outdoors! The recent snowfall allowed the group to identify several tracks including the galloping gait of a cottontail rabbit and red squirrel, the three-toed track of a ruffed grouse and the straight-line diagonal walk of a red fox. A tricky bounding weasel track was also found, likely a pine marten looking for meal on the ground.

The program was concluded by doing an animal print caste in clay. No messy powder and water needed, the moulding clay is easily flattened on wax paper using a small roller and a preset critter track was pressed into the clay. The kids could choice from eight moulded sample tracks, from the striped skunk to the black bear. Drying within 24 hours, this take away gave the kids a souvenir from their time learning about animal tracks.

A fun day of learning to be a track detective was enjoyed by both kids and adults, a result of the wonderful collaboration between Abbey Gardens and the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.

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Local children's summer camp is accepting applications for **cleaning and maintenance positions**. Full and seasonal opportunities available. Wide variety of duties including camp start-up and close down. Salaries based on experience. Submit resume to, **rob@campnbb.com** or leave a message at **705-754-2374** for more information.

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Barb Smith-Morrison, Executive Director
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In Loving Memory of
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It is with great sadness we attended the funeral of our dear friend and neighbour, John.

The Bernardis' were our friends and cottage neighbours for 50 years on Kushog Lake.

Our three children and their four children spent their Summers together on Kushog. I have many lovely memories of our families spending time together.

My deepest sympathy to his loving wife Ida and family.

Rest in peace, dear John,

Joyce, Paul & Family

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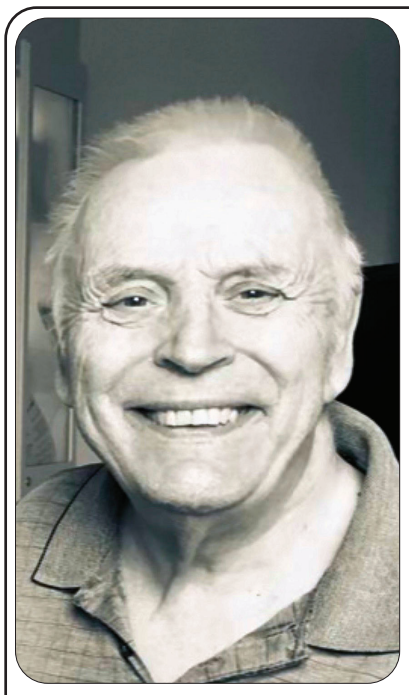

Herbert Debes
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at Highland Wood on March 26, 2024 in his 89th year, surrounded by his loving family. Gentle smiles right to the end. He will be greatly missed by the caring staff at Highland Wood and all the volunteers who brightened his last few years. Herb greatly believed he would be reunited with his lifetime friend and wife of 63 years Sigrid who sadly passed 3 years prior. A husband and father who never failed to provide for the needs of his family while adding zest with dad jokes, grand hand gestures and much laughter. Adored by the community of Haliburton he called home for 50 years and all of his friends. Herb had the kind of smile that reached his eyes and lit up his whole face, you couldn't help but feel it. He loved the outdoors and kept beautiful landscapes while he could. He found great comfort in knowing he would one day have the ability to once again be working the earth with his hands, his faith and hope remained intact to the end of his life. He will be fondly remembered by his children Karen, Cathy, Glenn and his wife Geraldine, Jennifer and her husband Michael. He was a fabulous Opa and will be greatly missed by his 10 grandchildren Kaley, Amy, Michah, Jaden, Taze, Jett, Denver, Bradie, LaKesha, and Charlsea and his 7 great grandchildren Tahlia, Keenan, Markie, Isla, Wren, Ivan and J.D.

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Private Graveside Service & Celebration Of Life

A Private funeral will be held graveside for family and friends. A Celebration of life will be announced at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Highland Wood would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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In Loving Memory of

Pastor David Neals

Passed away suddenly at home in Minden on Monday, March 25, 2024, at the age of 74.

Loving husband of Terry. Beloved father of Melinda/Mindy (David) Hope, Felicia Neals, and stepfather to Suzy (Nate). Loving poppa to Shanley (Matt) LeBoeuf, Chase Hope, Makayla Robinson, and Cassidy Neals. Great Grandfather to Vivian, Sawyer and Nolan. Brother to Ruth (Lee) Batchelor and Paul (Susan) Neals. Predeceased by parents Cecil and Marjorie (Galbraith) Neals. Founder of the Kawartha Biker Church.

A Celebration of Pastor Dave's Life and Final Ride will take place at a later date.

Memorial Donations can be forwarded to suzgould76@hotmail.com to be given to Pastor Dave's Charities.

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AH&M wants land swap

Anson, Hindon and Minden officials are attempting to negotiate a trade with Dave Stevens, owner of Beaverbrook Golf Course, for a strip of land to establish a trail to give snowmobilers better access to Minden. The municipality owns a 66-foot right-of-way through part of the golf course and council is interested in trading that right-of-way for a strip along the perimeter.

Stevens attended Thursday's council meeting with Margaret Walton, a planner from Bracebridge. They brought along a map of the property and pointed out that there is the potential for a housing development, as well as expansion of the golf course.

She asked where the proposed snowmobile trail would go, suggesting that routing the machines through residential areas could cause noise problems, especially late at night. She was told that snowmobilers routinely travel through residential areas at night with no serious problems. It was also explained that the trails would make the best of the routes which are available.

Walton told council members "snowmobiles and golf don't mix." She noted that in areas where snowmobile trails are opened, those trails are inevitably used by all terrain vehicles during the rest of the year. She said there is a liability concern since there is a possibility that an ATV rider could get hit by a golf ball.

She noted that the golf course is a good drawing card for the area.

Deputy-Reeve Jerry Rome acknowledged the value of the golf course but he said the snowmobilers are equally important to the economy of the region in the winter months.

It was noted that on a good winter weekend, as many as 8,000 snowmobilers could visit Minden.

Another concern that Stevens expressed was in regard to fencing. He asked who would be responsible for the cost of fencing to ensure that snowmobiles wouldn't leave the trail. He was told that if he wanted the trail fenced along his property, the cost would be his responsibility.

Councillor Grant Plooard explained that the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association is currently trying to route its trails off private property as much as possible. The most logical place for the trails is municipal lands, such as road allowances and other rights-of-way.

When asked what would happen if an agreement can't be reached regarding the transfer of property, Rome didn't rule out the development of the existing right-of-way for use as a snow-

(more on page 3)

Pitching in

Three grade eight classes and one grade seven class from Archie Stouffer Elementary School were getting down and dirty last week as they did their part to pitch in for Earth Day. These students cleaned up garbage along Main Street on April 22 as a part of their school's "Earth Day Challenge" which saw students bring litterless lunches and start classroom composting programs.Among those leading the clean-up charge, and having a good time doing it, were, from the left, Olivia Swanton, Catherine Walton and Cheryl Ripley.

Over 600 honour Bill Scott at Kinmount funeral

by Ariel White

Hundreds of friends, family and community members paid their respects to former Member of Parliament for Victoria-Haliburton, William C. Scott. The service was held at the Kinmount Fairgrounds, as a tribute to the man who served on the executive of the Kinmount Fair Board for most of his life.

Over 600 were in attendance from across the area. Representatives from all three levels of government were on hand, including MP John O'Reilly, MPP Chris Hodgson, and members of the Lutterworth, Snowdon, and Galway-Cavendish and Harvey municipal councils and Haliburton, Victoria and Peterborough County Councils.

Scott's devotion to his community and his constituency was recalled by many who spoke at the funeral. Marshall Dudman and Monty Robson, with whom the Kinmount resident shared a common interest in the community's annual fair, spoke of Scott's enthusiasm and years of service with the Fair Board.

Other speakers remembered Bill Scott as a faithful Member of Parliament and for his hard work on behalf of his constituents. As well they expressed their appreciation to the Scott family, wife Betty, daughter Laurie and son Guy, for their understanding and hard work, while Scott worked in Ottawa.

Gord Monk noted that Bill Scott was faithful to his religious beliefs throughout his life and that his convictions were reflected in his words as well as his deeds.

It was noted also that Scott was not without a sense of humour, as he enjoyed many practical jokes. Former Parliamentary Assistant Russell Wunker recalled one prank when Scott placed a hamster in a fellow MP's desk.

MPP Chris Hodgson stated that his own political career was rooted in advice given to him by Bill Scott. He thanked Scott for his patience and guidance through the years.

Riding Secretary Ruth Ann Mathews and her husband Arnott paid tribute to Scott in a lighter form, singing a song about his life, to the tune of Home on the Range. Mathews wrote the song for one of the traditional barbecues hosted each summer at the Kinmount Fairground by the MP.

Responding on behalf of the family Guy Scott thanked all of the many friends and family for their kind comments about his father and their words of encouragement and support.

His comments were brief, but he summed up the politician's life with a anecdote from 1992. Bill had been working all day on the family's store property and was covered in mud and dirt from the day's toil. Two men were walking by when one asked the other who was the dirty old lush in the dirt. The latter replied, it was his Member of Parliament. All the first man could say was, "wow" as he watched a Parliamentarian working at such a menial task.

Bill Scott was interred in a private service at Kinmount Cemetery.

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CURRY Chevrolet 1923
GMC

Maxwell
SIGNATURE REALTY
MCGILLIVRAY™
Trusted *
FIRST QUARTER 2024
MARKET SUMMARY
RESIDENTIAL & WF PROPERTIES IN HALIBURTON VERSUS Q1 2023
144
NEW LISTINGS
↑ 17%
56
DAYS ON MARKET
↑ 47%
$760,303
AVERAGE SALE PRICE
↑ 16.8%
66
HOMES / COTTAGES SOLD
↑ 6.5%
MAXWELL SIGNATURE REALTY
Melanie MAXWELL-HEVESI* & Andrea WILSON
Broker
Broker
MAXWELLSIGNATURE.COM
maxwellsignaturerealty
705.854.1000
2022
CERTIFIED LUXURY HOME MARKETING SPECIALIST
CLHMS
GUILD
CENTURY 21
Granite Realty Group Inc.
BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED